

# **ETV Pilot for Indoor Air Products**

## **Meeting Summary for the Task Force on Commercial Furniture Washington, DC, February 26, 1997**

### **Summary**

An initial meeting of the Task Force on Office Furniture was held in Washington, DC, February 26, 1997. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Linda Sheldon, a Research Triangle Institute Program Manager in Analytical and Chemical Sciences, with extensive experience in product emissions testing. Dr. Les Sparks, EPA Project Officer, and Dr. David Ensor, RTI ETV Manager, presented an overview of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) program and the specific pilot program for indoor air products. Dr. Sheldon presented a comparison of existing test protocols for emissions from commercial furniture. She also provided an introduction to the various uses for test data in modeling and risk assessment. A properly designed test method can provide data that can be applied to a number of end points. The task group then discussed the protocols, especially the definition of the product to be tested. The definition of the test product that is representative of a number of product lines is critical because of the interest in providing test data with wide acceptance. This program is being conducted through a cooperative agreement with the Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

### **Action Items**

1. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 1997 in Washington DC. Agenda and location will be supplied later.
2. RTI will prepare the minutes of the meeting. The minutes will be distributed to the mailing list. A summary of the meeting will be posted on the Web. People wanting a copy of the full minutes or to be added to the mailing list should contact [Debbie Franke](#) at RTI.
3. RTI and AQS, in coordination with BIFMA, will develop a study using existing test data from the office furniture industry, as discussed at the meeting. This study will be used to help develop the protocol.
4. BIFMA will work with its members to define critical components for emissions. The decision to denote something as critical may be based on emissions data or manufacturing information.
5. BIFMA has existing categories for furniture and will provide information on those before the June meeting.

6. BIFMA will discuss with its members and then provide information on the issues surrounding the starting time ( $t = 0$ ), used for in evaluating emission levels. This information should be available by the June meeting or before.
7. BIFMA will define the components of a standard workstation. This can then be specified in testing. While there are no guarantees that customers will not require testing for specific furniture items, it is hoped that most customers will accept testing of the standard workstations as representative of the entire product line.
8. RTI, AQS, and EPA will resolve air changes/air flows questions and other technical issues. These will be discussed with other laboratories that provide large chamber emissions testing.
9. RTI and AQS will develop a draft protocol before the next meeting.
10. RTI, with support from AQS and BIFMA, will study the use of a standardized work station for testing.

### **Meeting Attendance**

<b>Attended</b>	<b>Did Not Attend</b>
Marilyn Black, Air Quality Sciences Inc.	Karen Aylmer, Hon Industries
Jeff Davidson, U.S. EPA	Bill Barrett, American Seating Company
David Ensor, Research Triangle Institute	Charles Blumberg, NIH
Deborah Franke, Research Triangle Institute	Penny Bonda, The Hillier Group
Fred Gordon, Herman Miller	Harris Cunningham, National Research Council Canada
Randall S. Helm, Steelcase North America	Joseph Demkin, AIA
Dick Hubbard, Steelcase North America	Tom Donoghue, Global Upholstery Co. Limited
Scott Lesnet, Hon Industries Inc.	Richard Driscoll, BIFMA
Bryan Lundgren, Haworth	Ron Garbrecht, Trendway Corp.
	David Gerke, EAC IFS

Leyla McCurdy,  
American Lung Association

Brad Miller, BIFMA International

Paul Murray, Herman Miller

Jeffery Schatz,  
General Services Administration

Linda Sheldon, Research Triangle  
Institute

Les Sparks, U.S. EPA

Laura Wekenman, Steelcase

Jim Williams, Knoll Inc.

Thomas Daily, GSA

Barbara Ellison ,GSA

Kimberly Green-Goldborough, U.S.  
EPA

Dan Hare, U.S. EPA

Deborah Prince,  
Underwriters Laboratories

Chris Steele, NSF International

Chris Gribbs, AIA

Penelope Hansen, U.S. EPA

Peggy Jenkins, CARB Research Division

Robert J. Mills, VIRCO MFG. Corp.

Dwight Slocum, Kimball International

Jed Waldman, CA Dept.of Health Services

James B. Wolfe, United Chair

Jianshun Zhang, CNRC